

servitude will require Sudan's national political and military leaders to speak out forcefully and to act vigorously against these practices. Denials of the existence of slavery and rationalizations for its existence may be interpreted by some as indifference or, worse, license to continue these abuses.

AUTHORIZING THE APPOINTMENT OF NATIONAL GUARD OFFICERS

HON. SAXBY CHAMBLISS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 6, 2002

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation that would authorize the appointment of National Guard officers as commanders of units composed of both active duty military personnel and National Guard troops in nonfederal status.

As a member of the House Armed Services Committee, I support many of the transformation initiatives our military is undertaking. Through the vision and leadership of Secretary Roche and General Jumper, the Air Force has been a leading proponent of transformation. The Joint Surveillance Target Attack Radar System, or JSTARS, and the 116th Air National Guard unit at Robins Air Force Base are a prime example of a transformational mission. These unique units are on the verge of becoming even more transformational as they blend Air National Guard personnel into the active JSTARS unit. Currently, the 116th numbers more than 1,100 Air Guardsmen dedicated to defending our country. The 116th has been and will continue to be an Air National Guard unit that is the pinnacle of professionalism and honor; and will continue to be ready Anytime-Anywhere.

The Air Force has long been the model of full and seamless integration of the Reserve Components. Its Guard and Reserve associate programs are long-term success stories that maximize weapon system utilization while leveraging the expertise of Guard and Reserve personnel. In addition, active duty officers have successfully commanded Air National Guard fighter units.

My bill will provide another mechanism with which to further integrate active duty and National Guard members into blended units. At the same time, it preserves the unique non-Federal status of the National Guard officer while enabling that officer to command a unit of active duty and National Guard troops. This legislation is another step on the road of transformation.

REPEALING SUNSET OF ECONOMIC GROWTH AND TAX RELIEF REC- ONCILIATION ACT OF 2001 WITH RESPECT TO EXPANSION OF CERTAIN ADOPTION PROGRAMS

SPEECH OF

HON. EARL POMEROY

OF NORTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 4, 2002

Mr. POMEROY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 4800, a bill to repeal the sun-

set provisions in current law for adoption tax credit and adoption assistance programs. As a member of the Congressional Coalition on Adoption, and more importantly, as the father of two adopted children. I want to encourage my colleagues to support this meaningful legislation.

As an adoptive father, I know from personal experience that expanding opportunities for adoption is not only good tax policy, but good family policy. My own family was forever changed and enriched by the adoption of our two children from Korea. Through that firsthand experience, I am able to share with my colleagues my personal realization that adoption links children who need homes to families who will love them.

In the past, however, the prohibitive cost of the adoption process has threatened the opportunity to bring children in need together with would-be families who have modest incomes. It may come as some surprise to my colleagues to know that families can often spend between \$8,000 and \$30,000 in the course of adopting a child. Earlier this session, Congress recognized the importance of removing financial hurdles to adoption by raising the limit on the adoption tax credit to \$10,000 for all adoptions and, in effect, opening thousands more homes and hearts to the miracle of adoption. Mr. Speaker, incentives for bringing families together should not be time limited and that is why I support this bill to repeal the sunset provisions on these tax credits.

I think it is particularly fitting that we consider this bill after recently celebrating Mother's Day, and so close to Father's Day. These two days have been set aside for us to thank our parents for raising us, for giving us a sense of security and independence, and for offering us their unconditional love. I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to all parents who know that there is no more important, more difficult, and ultimately more rewarding undertaking than raising a child.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting adoptive parents today by repealing the provisions that would end these important tax incentives.

URGING INCREASED FEDERAL FUNDING FOR JUVENILE TYPE 1 DIABETES RESEARCH

SPEECH OF

HON. GEORGE R. NETHERCUTT, JR.

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 4, 2002

Mr. NETHERCUTT. Madam Speaker, as co-chair of the Congressional Diabetes Caucus I commend the House of Representatives for passing H. Con. Res. 36. This bill declares that Federal funding for diabetes research should be increased as recommended by the Diabetes Research Working Group, DRWG, so that a cure for juvenile diabetes can be found. Increasing funding for Type 1 diabetes research is vitally important to the well being of our country.

Like many Americans across the Nation, I have a personal attachment to diabetes—my

daughter has type 1 diabetes. This disease is one of the fastest-growing and most deadly diseases in the United States. Each year an estimated 800,000 new cases of diabetes are diagnosed. Diabetes currently costs the United States approximately \$100 billion and kills approximately 200,000 people every year.

With these severe economic and health costs in mind, I am pleased that the House of Representatives has supported this legislation to increase funding for Type 1 diabetes research. Diabetes research at the NIH comprises less than 4 percent of the NIH budget. Although, diabetes affects over 16 million Americans and individuals with diabetes account for one out of every four Medicare dollars spent. An investment in research that results in a cure for diabetes would save our Nation billions of dollars and would also prevent millions of individuals from ever acquiring the disease.

In 1997, I was proud to introduce legislation in the House to authorize the establishment of a Diabetes Research Working Group, DRWG. The DRWG was comprised of a group of outstanding scientists and experts knowledgeable about diabetes. As cochair of the Congressional Diabetes Caucus, I saw the need to permit researchers to take a step back and attempt to better focus the Federal Government's efforts to establish a long-term plan to put us on track toward curing diabetes.

We have fallen drastically short of the funding levels suggested by the DRWG. In FY 2001 the NIH devoted \$590 million to diabetes research, while the DRWG recommendation for funding was \$1.07 billion. H. Con. Res. 36, passed by the House yesterday, supports the recommendations of the DRWG for \$1.5 billion in research funding for FY 2003 at the NIH.

I fully support ensuring that all the recommendations of the DRWG are implemented. While we recognize the limitations of the budget, the momentum in the diabetes scientific community is too promising to slow our progress. Clinical trials involving the transplantation of insulin-producing cells into individuals with Type 1 diabetes has brought us within reach of a cure. Of the approximately 70 patients who have received these transplants, 80 percent no longer need to take insulin. As dramatic as these results are, several obstacles must still be overcome before this research can be made available to all individuals who suffer from diabetes.

H. Con. Res. 36 is a step in the right direction to support the NIH's extraordinary efforts and I urge the House of Representatives to consider the cost that diabetes inflicts on our Nation both in human and economic terms when considering funding for diabetes research and prevention later this year. The promise of diabetes research at this time is too great for us not to increase our commitment to the Americans who suffer from this devastating disease.